



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	
Shinji MORI et al.)	Examiner: Not yet assigned
Serial No. 10/615,388)	Group Art Unit: 3654
Filed: July 9, 2003)	
For: WERRING RETRACTOR)	Confirmation No. 8490

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Enclosed is a copy of an additional European Search Report dated January 19, 2004, for a corresponding European patent application together with the references cited therein.

Please note that cited reference DE 201 15 316 U1 was previously filed in an Information Disclosure Statement on December 5, 2003, therefore this reference is not enclosed.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740165-355)

Respectfully submitted,

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titute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known			
Application Number	10/615,388		
Filing Date	July 9, 2003		
First Named Inventor	Shinji MORI		
Art Unit 3654			
Examiner Name Not yet assigned			
Attorney Docket Number	740165-355		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-4,423,846	01-03-1984	Föhl	······
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

		FC	DREIGN PATENT I	OOCUMENTS	•••		
Examiner Initials	Cite No. 1	Foreign Patent Document Kind Code ³ Country Code ³ Number ⁴ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	™ Full	
		EP 1 195 536 A1	04-10-2002	Kimura et al.			
		GB 2 354 742 A	04-04-2001	Tanaka		Full	
		JP 2000-142321	05-23-2000	Toshihiro		Abstract	
		OTHER PRIOR A	ART – NON PATENT	LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		L	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹		ımal, serial, symposium,	RS), title of the article (when approcatalog, etc.)., date, page(s), volum country where published.		T ²	
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED JANUARY 19, 2004							

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.